

**REMARKS**

The claims in the International Application were amended under PCT Article 34. This Preliminary Amendment further amends the claims and adds new claims to present the claims in accordance with United States patent practice. Particularly, the reference numbers in the claims have been removed and the multiple dependencies have also been removed.

The present amendment is intended for clarification purposes only and not for substantial reasons related to patentability pursuant to 35 U.S.C. No subject matter has been surrendered, and no new subject matter has been added.

The Article 34 amendments in the International Application included other amendments in addition to claim amendments. Applicants request those Article 34 amendments be made in the US nationalized application.

Early consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

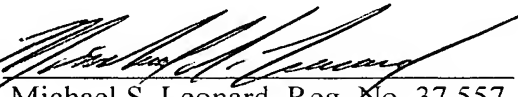
Applicants invite the Examiner to call Applicants' Representative to discuss any issues with this application.

Respectfully submitted,

EVEREST INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP

Date: December 17, 2004

BY



Michael S. Leonard, Reg. No. 37,557  
P.O. Box 708  
Northbrook, IL 60065  
Phone: (847) 272-3400